

## Legislative Bulletin.....January 26, 2010

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### **H.Res. 583 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Lester Flatt has made an invaluable contribution to American art as both a songwriter and a performer, leaving an indelible legacy in bluegrass music. (Davis, D-TN)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 583 resolves it is the sense of the House of Representatives:

- “That Lester Flatt has made an invaluable contribution to American art as both a songwriter and a performer, leaving an indelible legacy in bluegrass music.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Lester Flatt was born on June 19, 1914, in the region of Sparta, Tennessee;
- “In 1945, Lester Flatt was invited by Bill Monroe to play rhythm guitar and sing with Monroe's band on the Grand Ole Opry;

- “Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, Chubby Wise, Howard Watts, and Bill Monroe are widely credited with the creation of bluegrass music through their band, Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys;
- “In 1969, Lester Flatt parted with Scruggs to form the band Nashville Grass, with whom he performed until shortly before his death on May 11, 1979;
- “In 1991, Lester Flatt, along with Bill Monroe and Earl Scruggs, became an inaugural member of the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 583 was introduced on June 25, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 990 - Expressing support for designation of January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month". (McCollum, D-MN)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 990 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of ‘National Mentoring Month’;
- “Recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring adults and students who are already volunteering as mentors and encourages more adults and students to volunteer as mentors; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe National Mentoring Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement with, youth mentoring.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Continued research on mentoring shows that formal, high-quality mentoring focused on developing the competence and character of the mentee promotes positive outcomes, such as improved academic achievement, self-esteem, social skills, and career development;
- “Mentoring partnerships between the public and private sectors bring State and local leaders together to support mentoring programs by preventing duplication of efforts, offering training in industry best practices, and making the most of limited resources to benefit young people in the United States;
- “The designation of January 2010 as ‘National Mentoring Month’ will help call attention to the critical role mentors play in helping young people realize their potential; and
- “National Mentoring Month will, most significantly, build awareness of mentoring and encourage more people to become mentors and help close the mentoring gap in the United States.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 990 was introduced on December 16, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 1030 - Congratulating Messiah College men's and women's soccer teams on winning the 2009 NCAA Division III national championships. (Platts, R-PA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1030 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates Messiah College men's and women's soccer teams on winning the 2009 NCAA Division III national championships; and
- “Recognizes Messiah College for excellence in academics, athletics, and character.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Messiah College men's and women's soccer teams won the 2009 NCAA Division III championships on December 5, 2009, against Calvin College and Washington University-St. Louis;
- “Messiah College is a Christian liberal arts college that was founded in 1909 and is located in Grantham, Pennsylvania; and
- “Messiah College has 22 intercollegiate athletic teams that have won 11 NCAA national championships.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1030 was introduced on January 21, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 1029 - Expressing support for designation of the week of February 1 through February 5, 2010, as "National School Counseling Week". (Sanchez, D-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1029 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors and recognizes the contributions of school counselors to the success of students in our Nation's elementary and secondary schools; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe ‘National School Counseling Week’ with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the crucial role school counselors play in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The American School Counselor Association has declared the week of February 1 through February 5, 2010, as ‘National School Counseling Week’;
- “The House of Representatives has recognized the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in the last reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;
- “The average student-to-counselor ratio in America's public schools, 475-to-1, is almost double the 250-to-1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, and other organizations; and
- “The week of February 1 through February 5, 2010, would be an appropriate week to designate as ‘National School Counseling Week.’”

**Additional Information:** The [American School Counselor Association Foundation](#) is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 fund established “to encourage grants to further the school counseling profession and the development of all students.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1029 was introduced on January 21, 2010 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the bill does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H. Res. 1011 - Recognizing the importance of cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages and supporting the goals and ideals of Cervical Health Awareness Month**  
***(Halvorson, D-IL)***

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 158 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Cervical Health Awareness Month;
- “Recognizes the importance of good cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages;
- “Urges healthcare advocates to continue to raise public awareness about cervical cancer and the importance of early detection;
- “Urges the people of the United States to learn about cervical cancer and its causes, most notably human papillomavirus (HPV), and the importance of early detection; and
- “Recognizes the patients and survivors of cervical cancer and their families for their tremendous courage and determination.

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Approximately 11,270 women were diagnosed with, and approximately 4,070 women died from cervical cancer in the United States in 2009;
- “Half of the women diagnosed with the disease are between 35 and 55 years of age, and approximately 20 percent of diagnoses are made in women older than 65; and
- “Cervical cancer is usually a slow-growing cancer that may not have symptoms, and is primarily caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), but can be detected by Papanicolaou tests (Pap tests) or other early detection tests.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1011 was introduced on January 13, 2013 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and no explanation in the accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI,

Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** No committee report citing Constitutional Authority was available.

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## **H. Res. 1003 - Expressing support for the designation of January 10, 2010, through January 16, 2010, as National Influenza Vaccination Week. (Chu, D-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1003 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of National Influenza Vaccination Week, including raising public awareness that vaccination is the best defense against the flu; and
- “Encourages people in the United States to get vaccinated, especially those with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, children, young adults, caretakers of infants, and healthcare workers.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Between April and mid-November, the United States saw approximately 47,000,000 cases of the 2009 H1N1 flu, more than 200,000 hospitalizations, and nearly 10,000 deaths;
- “People in the United States have a window of opportunity to get the H1N1 vaccine and lessen the impact of, or even prevent, another wave of illness;
- “One of the goals, in addition to fostering continuing influenza vaccination, of National Influenza Vaccination Week is to engage H1N1 at-risk audiences who are not yet vaccinated;
- “The five target groups for H1N1 are pregnant women, people who live with or provide care for infants younger than 6 months, health care and emergency medical services personnel, people 6 months through 24 years of age, and people 25 years through 64 years of age who have certain medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications; and
- “The American Public Health Association, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Families Fighting Flu, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the National Environmental Health Association, the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, the

American Osteopathic Association, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American Red Cross, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the National Hispanic Medical Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American College of Preventive Medicine, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, the International Association of Firefighters, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Association for Profession in Infection Control and Epidemiology, the American Pharmacists Association, the American College Health Association, the American College of Physicians, the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, the National Association of School Nurses, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, the National Community Pharmacists Association, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, Epocrates, the American Academy of Neurology, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare support the H1N1 flu vaccine.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1003 was introduced on June January 12, 2010 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and no explanation in the accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** No committee report citing Constitutional Authority was available.

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## **H.Res. 1024 - Expressing support for designation of January as Poverty in America Awareness Month (*McDermott, D-WA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1024 resolves that:

(1) The House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of Poverty in America Awareness Month; and
- “Recognizes the important contributions of those individuals and organizations that have made a commitment to providing critical support and services to needy individuals and families; and

(2) It is the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “Eradicating poverty in the United States should be the goal for all people in the United States, including all levels of government;
- “The severe economic downturn has highlighted the need to ensure that the Nation's most vulnerable individuals and families are able to meet their most fundamental needs during a time of financial crisis; and
- “Congress should recommit itself to helping individuals and families facing economic hardship receive the assistance they need and deserve in moving towards greater economic security through programs under Title IV of the Social Security Act and other related programs.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The share of people in the United States who have incomes that fall below half of the Federal poverty line reached 5.7 percent, or 17,100,000 people, its highest level since 1994;
- “The next Census report on poverty will likely illustrate higher levels of poverty as the report will reflect data from 2009, a year in which the economy experienced substantial job loss and historic levels of long-term unemployment, leading some experts to project that the overall poverty rate may increase by 1.5 percentage points and the percentage of children living in poverty may increase by 6 percentage points in the next report;
- “There is broad consensus among researchers and policy experts that the Federal poverty measure is outdated and inadequate in determining the depth and extent of poverty in the United States;
- “During the present economic downturn, Congress should do more to help individuals and families rise out of poverty and maintain economic stability through the use of a variety of programs promoting education and training, childcare assistance, housing security, and related services; and
- “It would be appropriate to designate the month of January 2010 as Poverty in America Awareness Month.”

**Potential Conservative Concern:** Amongst other things, this legislation states that “Congress should recommit itself to helping individuals and families facing economic hardship receive the assistance they need and deserve in moving towards greater economic security through programs under Title IV of the Social Security Act and other related programs” Some conservatives may have concerns that this legislation implies more of the same policies that have been pushed by Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats that continue to add to the deficit, instead of enacting positive [solutions](#) to the problems

that hardworking Americans and their families face each day.

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1024 was introduced on January 20, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **S. \_\_ - Emergency Aid to American Survivors of the Haiti Earthquake Act (*Rangel, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** This legislation amends Sections 1933 and 1941 of the Social Security Act to increase payments for FY 2010 to the [U.S. Repatriation Program](#). Funding will be increased to \$25 million for FY 2010 (compared to \$1 million in FY 2009). This program assists eligible repatriates, referred from the U.S. Department of State, by providing them with temporary assistance for their transition and reestablishment in the United States.

This legislation also increases federal funding for the [Qualifying Individual \(QI\) Program](#), which under current law is subject to annual limits and set to terminate December 31, 2010. The QI program was established to allow certain “low-income” individuals (defined as individuals with incomes between 120% and 135% of poverty) to be eligible to have their Medicare part B premiums paid for by Medicaid under the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). According to a preliminary estimate from CBO, funding will be increased by \$38 million in FY 2010 and by \$13 million in FY 2011.

The [Medicaid Improvement Fund](#) will be cut by \$90 million in 2014.

**Potential Conservative Concern:** Some conservatives may believe that any reductions to the Medicaid Improvement Fund should be, at a minimum, used for its intended purpose (“to improve the management of the Medicaid program by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, including oversight of contracts and contractors and evaluation of demonstration projects”) but perhaps more appropriately to reduce the deficit instead of being used to offset higher spending on the Qualifying Individual (QI) program.

Under current law, expenditures under the QI program are fully funded by the federal government up to a state’s specified allocation level. This additional expenditure may be seen as another bail out to states and a further expansion of entitlement spending in an already unsustainable program.

**Committee Action:** S. \_\_ has yet to be introduced.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A preliminary estimate from CBO states that the legislation will cost \$63 million in FY 2010, \$13 million in FY 2011. The \$90 million cut to the Medicaid Improvement Fund will cause the legislation to save \$14 million over the FY 2010 – 2015 period.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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